



**Grower Statement – Central Texas Olive Ranch  
Before the  
U.S. International Trade Commission  
Olive Oil: Conditions of Competition between U.S. and Major Foreign Supplier Industries  
Investigation No. 332-537**

My name is Joshua Swafford and I farm and produce olive oil near Georgetown, Texas. My family and I decided to plant olive trees as an investment after serious research and because we enjoy the taste of olive oil. Since we have agricultural land, we wanted a crop that would not have to be replanted each year such as cotton, vegetables, or field crops. In addition, olive trees require less water than the aforementioned annual crops. We currently have 23,000 trees planted for olive oil and expect that our trees will continue to produce olive oil for approximately 50 - 75 years.

The economic cost of planting the olive oil trees and the opportunity income from other types of crops were carefully considered. Our land has traditionally been used to graze registered Black Angus cattle, and leased out to farm traditional row crops. Since the planting of olive trees is our first permanent planting, compared to our annual crops, it was a big decision for us, particularly because it takes three to four years before the first harvest. I might add there is no government support other than outstanding university extension research and advice.

Our trees are now producing 20 gallons per acre and we just had our mill installed in the fall of 2012. The oil is sold in 250mL & 500mL containers locally and throughout the State of Texas.

The production of olive oil requires the following cultural practices: pruning, irrigation, crop protection practices such as herbicides for weeds, freeze/frost protection, insecticides for pests, fertilizing, replanting dead trees, harvesting, and routine inspection of the trees. Our equipment includes tractors, spray equipment, pruning equipment, utility vehicles, in addition to the usual farming tools. The permanent buildings are used for equipment storage, olive oil tanks, milling and bottling operations, pesticide storage, and fertilizer storage.

Within the past four years, there have been additional olive orchards installed around the Georgetown area. This totals just over 100 acres, including 45,000 olive trees.

We have invested substantial time, effort, and money into our olive farm and we are confident that we will be able to continue to successfully grown our business if we're allowed to compete in a fair market.